

**Request to Archive  
With The National Centers for Environmental Information  
For NCEP GTS data in abbreviated format  
Provided by National Climatic Data Center**

**2013-08-29**

This information will be used by NCEI to conduct an appraisal and make a decision on the request.

**1. Who is the primary point of contact for this request?**

Eric Freeman  
NCDC/GCAD/IAB  
Marine Observation Analyst  
828-271-4463  
eric.freeman@noaa.gov

**2. Name the organization or group responsible for creating the dataset.**

DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP > National Centers for Environmental Prediction, National Weather Service, NOAA, U.S.  
Department of Commerce

**3. Provide an overview summarizing the scope of data you want to archive. Describe the outputs, data variables, including their measurement resolution and coverage.**

NCEP GTS files in an abbreviated format have been created and used by NCDC products, such as ERSST and OISST, as input data for SST analysis. NCEP generates these abbreviated files from the full BUFR messages archived monthly by NCAR and NCDC, however many of the historical files are unable to be reproduced. The files contain important sst measurements and other measured elements in a format that is simple and easy to use and has a small volume size when compared to its BUFR counterpart.

Historically we have files from 1991 to present, but the files have never been permanently archived. NCEP still produces these and following the end of a data month, the file is available on an NCEP ftp server. Due to the filename conventions, the files are overwritten each month and for the fact that these files are difficult to reproduce and are outside of NCEP operations it is important to archive them to avoid permanent loss.

**4. What is the time period covered by the dataset? (YYYY-MM-DD, YYYY-MM or YYYY)**

From 1991-01-01  
Ongoing as continuous updates to the data record

**5. Edition or version number(s) of the dataset:**

**6. Describe the level to which the data are processed. For example, are these unprocessed raw observations, derived parameters, quality controlled or inter-calibrated data, etc.?**

The data are a subset of the full BUFR reports received at NCEP.

**7. Approximate date when the dataset was or will be released to the public:**

2013-09-01

**8. Who are the expected users of the archived data? How will the archived data be used?**

ERSST, OISST, and Air Force.

**9. Has the dataset undergone user evaluation and/or an independent review process? Did NCEI participate in design reviews?**

No

**10. Describe the dataset's relationship to other archived datasets, such as earlier versions or related source data. If this is a new version, how does it improve upon the previous version(s)?**

These are a subset of NCEP BUFR GTS files archived at NCAR (back to 1991) and archived in NCDC DSI-1177\_01 (January 2013 to present).

**11. List the input datasets and ancillary information used to produce the data.**

Global Voluntary Observing Ships (VOS) and research vessels, moored and drifting buoys, Coastal Marine Automated Network (CMAN) stations and tide gauge stations with meteorological reports.

**12. List web pages and other links that provide information on the data.**

Metadata is not available with the files. A reference to WMO Publication No. 47 with ship metadata is needed as well as possibly to the NDBC or NOS sites for buoy/cman/tide gauge metadata.

**13. List the kinds of documents, metadata and code that are available for archiving. For example, data format specifications, user guides, algorithm documentation, metadata compliant with a standard such as ISO 19115, source code, platform/instrument metadata, data/process flow diagrams, etc.**

1. A readme file is available that explains the file naming conventions and sources of data.

[ftp://ftp.ncdc.noaa.gov/pub/data/ncep\\_gts/readme.txt](ftp://ftp.ncdc.noaa.gov/pub/data/ncep_gts/readme.txt)

**14. Indicate the data file format(s).**

1. ASCII

**15. Are the data files compressed?**

gzip and compress

**16. Provide details on how the files are named and how they are organized (e.g., file\_name\_pattern\_YYYYMM.tar in monthly aggregations).**

See 'other pertinent information'

**17. Explain how to access sample data files and/or a file listing for previewing. If it is not available now, when will it be available?**

Currently all data have been added to an NCDC ftp site to hold until these data can be archived. Then the process will be turned over to NCDC Ingest and Archive once a submission agreement is completed.

Sample files can be found at:

[ftp://ftp.ncdc.noaa.gov/pub/data/ncep\\_gts/](ftp://ftp.ncdc.noaa.gov/pub/data/ncep_gts/)

**18. What is the total data volume to be submitted?**

**Historic Data: all historic data or data submitted as a completed collection.**

Total Data Volume: 2.62GB

Number of Data Files: 278

**Continuous Data: data volume rate for a continuous data production.**

Total Data Volume Rate: 15MB per Month

Data File Frequency: 1 per Month

Data Production Start: 2011-01-01

**19. Are later updates, revisions or replacement files anticipated? If so, explain the conditions for submitting these additional data to the archive.**

No additional updates, revisions or replacement data are anticipated.

**20. Describe the server that will connect to the ingest server at NCEI for submitting the data.**

Physical Location: Static data files (historical) from NCDC ftp

System Name: ftp0.ncdc.noaa.gov/pub/data/ncep\_gts

System Owner: DOC/NOAA/NESDIS/NCDC > National Climatic Data Center,  
NESDIS, NOAA, U.S. Department of Commerce

Additional Information: Ongoing submissions will be from an NCEP ftp server.

**21. What are the possible methods for submitting the data to NCEI? Select all that apply.**

1. FTP PULL

2. FTP PUSH

**22. Identify how you would like NCEI to distribute the data. Web access support depends on the resources available for the dataset.**

1. Unknown

**23. Will there be any distribution, usage, or other restrictions that apply to the data in the archive?**

No known constraints apply to the data.

**24. Discuss the rationale for archiving the dataset and the anticipated benefits. Mention any risks associated with not archiving the dataset at NCEI.**

These data are not reproducible, especially going back in time, and have never been permanently archived. Since they have been used as input to OISST and ERSST it's imperative that we keep these files from being lost and establish a new ingest process to continually archive these on a monthly basis.

**25. Are the data archived at another facility or are there plans to do so? Please explain.**

No

**26. Is there an existing agreement or requirement driving this request to archive? Have you already contacted someone at NCEI?**

Submission agreements for OISST and ERSST are the drivers, but these need to be preserved regardless of OISST and ERSST submission agreements.

**27. Do you have a data management plan for your data?**

No

**28. Have funds been allocated to archive the data at NCEI?**

Ocean Data Management funding. This is provided by CPO through a grant that Huai-min Zhang is currently the PI on.

**29. Identify the affiliated research project, its sponsor, and any project/grant ID as applicable.**

This project supports OISST and ERSST.

**30. Is there a desired deadline for NCEI to archive and provide access to the data?**

Archive by: 2013-09-30

Accessible by:

**31. Add any other pertinent information for this request.**

The files are monthly aggregates.

January 1991 through February 2011:

file "nqYYMM.Z", where YY and MM are the last two digits of the year and the month e.g. "nq9601.Z"

January 2011-present:

file "gts\_sfcmar\_yyyymm.gz", where yyyy and mm are the year and month, e.g., "gts.sfcmar\_201102.gz"